



Executive Directive 10 (2005)

BRAC REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

The military presence in Virginia is vital to the nation's security and to the economic prosperity and quality of life of the Commonwealth. While overall the Commonwealth fared relatively well, the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission made recommendations that will cause significant shifts in missions and employment at and among military installations across the Commonwealth. This includes significant job gains, losses, and shifts among communities. These changes will have profound impacts on the economy, transportation system, educational system, and civic life of communities across the Commonwealth.

It is incumbent on the Commonwealth and its communities to respond to these recommendations to ensure that Virginia remains the best possible location to host military installations. Moreover, there must be a cooperative effort to assist affected regions of the Commonwealth in responding to the 2005 BRAC process. Achieving these goals will require a federal, state, and local partnership as well as involvement from the business community, civic organizations, and the community generally.

To accomplish this, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Article V of the *Constitution of Virginia* and by Section 2.2-134 of the *Code of Virginia*, I hereby create Virginia's BRAC Regional Working Groups as part of the Commission on Virginia Military Bases. The responsibilities of these Working Groups are to ensure that the Commonwealth and the following regions of the state effectively prepare for and respond to implementation of the 2005 BRAC Commission recommendations: Central Virginia, Northern Virginia, Oceana, and the Peninsula.

The Working Groups

Each working group shall include local government officials, state legislators, and citizen members. Citizen members shall include but not be limited to representatives of the affected communities and the business community. In addition, each member of the U.S. House of Representatives or their designee

representing the affected region shall serve as an Ex-Officio member of the applicable working group. Both U.S. Senators or their designees shall be Ex-Officio members of each working group. Representatives of affected military installations shall also be included as Ex-Officio members to the Working Groups, in accordance with their respective Services' policies regarding collaboration with local communities on issues of mutual interest. It should be emphasized that the roles of military representatives shall be limited to advising the Working Groups on expected changes and related needs for the installations and its personnel.

The Governor shall designate the chairman of each working group. The working groups shall meet at the call of the chairman.

Each working group shall make regular reports of its findings and recommendations through the Commission on Virginia Military Bases to the Governor.

The Central Virginia Working Group

The 7,300 additional direct jobs and added personnel coming to Fort Lee as a result of the 2005 BRAC process is a very positive development for the region and the Commonwealth. It is important that every effort be made to take advantage of this opportunity. Accordingly, I hereby direct the Central Virginia Working Group to:

- Assess the proposed impact of 2005 BRAC Commission changes to identify the multi-year local, state and private sector needs surrounding these changes, specifically including education, health care and transportation needs; and
- Identify actions needed to accommodate this job shift to the Fort Lee area in the best possible manner for the partner communities, the military, and affected families.

The Northern Virginia Working Group

The 2005 BRAC Process will result in significant job movement in Northern Virginia. This will present challenges for areas losing jobs and for those gaining jobs that need to be proactively addressed.

With this in mind, the Northern Virginia Working Group shall have three specific responsibilities:

- Assess the proposed impact of 2005 BRAC Commission changes to identify the multi-year local, state and private sector needs surrounding these changes, specifically including health care, education and transportation needs;
- Identify necessary steps to respond to job shifts from leased space in Arlington and Alexandria;
- Identify needed actions for accommodating significant job shifts to Fort Belvoir and to the U.S. Marine Corps Base Quantico.

The South Hampton Roads Working Group

The Hampton Roads military complex including Naval Air Station Oceana is critical to the security of our nation and dramatically impacts the economy of the region and the Commonwealth. There are inextricable relationships between the military installations in the region and changes on any single activity are likely to cause short and long term cascading effects on others. The 2005 BRAC Commission gave specific requirements for maintaining a Master Jet Base at Naval Air Station Oceana. Successfully addressing these requirements in a manner that balances the needs of individual citizens, communities, the Commonwealth and the military will require unprecedented regional cooperation among the federal and state governments and area localities.

In view of this, the Oceana Working Group will have five specific responsibilities:

- Assess the proposed impact of 2005 BRAC Commission changes to identify the multi-year local, state and private sector needs surrounding these changes, specifically including health care, education and transportation needs;
- Craft an appropriate long-term strategy for strengthening on-going regional collaboration, coordination and cooperation among communities and the military.

- Review all available options for addressing actions by the 2005 BRAC Commission that equitably addresses the interests of citizens, communities and the military and protects the interests of the Commonwealth.
- Identify needed local and state legislative actions to address the Commission's requirements relative to Naval Air Station Oceana;
- Develop an equitable strategy for addressing the cost impact of strengthening community support to military installations as well as the Commission's requirements related to Naval Air Station Oceana.

The Peninsula Working Group

The 2005 BRAC Commission presents several challenges for the Peninsula, including responding to the proposed closure of Fort Monroe and adapting to significant job shifts at Fort Eustis and Langley Air Force base, as well preserving the strong civil-military relationships in the region.

In light of these challenges, the Peninsula Working Group shall have four specific responsibilities:

- Assess the proposed impact of 2005 BRAC Commission changes to identify the multi-year local, state and private sector needs surrounding these changes, specifically including health care, education, and transportation needs;
- Craft an appropriate long-term strategy for strengthening on-going regional collaboration, coordination and cooperation among communities and the military.
- Recommend responses needed to the proposed job shifts on the Peninsula involving Fort Eustis and Langley Air Force Base; and
- Identify needed actions to respond to the proposed closure of Fort Monroe.

Coordination:

The activities of the working groups shall coordinate and partner with existing locally based activities. Existing local activities shall be integrated as full components to these regional working groups.

The Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness is responsible for coordinating work among the various working groups. Special care shall be given to coordinating the work of the two Hampton Roads groups, so as to promote overall regional cooperation in Hampton Roads towards the larger goal of making the region the nation's premier host community for meeting the needs of the military.

Working Group Staffing and Funding

Necessary staff support for the Commission's work during its existence shall be furnished by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Department of Business Assistance, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Department of Education, the Office of the Governor, and such other agencies and offices as designated by the Governor. It is also requested that the applicable regional planning district commissions provide staff support as appropriate, and funding will be made available for these purposes. An estimated 4,500 hours of staff time will be required to support the working groups.

Necessary funding to support the working groups shall be provided from such sources as the Governor may designate. The total estimated direct cost for these working groups is \$125,000. Working group members shall serve without compensation and shall receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

Effective Date of this Executive Directive

This Executive Directive shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in force and effect until December 31, 2005, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 23rd day of September 2005.

Mark R. Warner, Governor